

Desirable Attributes of Performance Measures
adopted by the AMA, JCAHO, and NCQA

Attribute	Definition
1. Importance of Topic Area Addressed by the Measure	
1A. High Priority for Maximizing the Health of Persons or Populations.	It addresses an important medical condition as defined by high prevalence, incidence, mortality, morbidity, or disability.
1B. Financially Important.	It addresses a clinical condition that requires high expenditures.
1C. Demonstrated Variation in Care and/or potential for Improvement.	Chosen for aspects of care with wide variation or potential for improvement.
2. Usefulness in improving Patient Outcomes	
2A. Based on Established Clinical Recommendations	Good evidence exists that there are processes or actions that providers can take to improve health outcomes.
2B. Potentially Actionable by User.	Area of health care is under the control of the physician of health care organization.
2C. Meaningful and Interpretable to User.	Results of the measure are reportable in a manner interpretable and meaningful to the intended user.
3. Measure Design	
3A. Well Defined Specifications.	Well defined numerator, denominator, sampling methodology, data sources, allowable values, methods of measurement and method of reporting.
3B. Documented Reliability.	The measure will produce the same results when repeated in the same population and setting.
3C. Documented Validity.	Face, construct and content validity.
3D. Allowance for Risk.	Especially important if the purpose of the measure is comparison and accountability.
3E. Proven Feasibility.	The required data can be easily obtained, and the cost of data collection is justified by potential improvements in outcomes.
3F. Confidentiality.	Data collection should not violate accepted standards of confidentiality.
3G. Public Availability.	The measure specifications are publicly available.